



AF TTL Flash
INSTRUCTION MANUAL

VIV-DF-183



Vivitar
SERIES 1

Limited One Year Warranty

Vivitar warrants this quality product to be free of defects in material and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of purchase. During the period, Vivitar will repair or replace the product at no charge for parts or labor.

TIME PERIOD OF THIS WARRANTY

The time period of this warranty starts from the date of the original purchase and expires on the first anniversary date of purchase.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY

No express or implied warranty is made for any defects in this product which result from accident, abuse, misuse, failure to operate the product in accordance with relevant instructions, neglect, immersion in or exposure to chemicals or liquids, extremes of climate, fungus, excessive wear and tear/cosmetic damage and defects resulting from other extraneous causes such as unauthorised disassembly, repair or modification.

This warranty shall not extend to any incidental or consequential damages arising from the purchase, use or inability to use this product even if Vivitar has been advised of such damages. The laws of some countries and some States thereof do not allow the limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may apply to you.

WHAT TO DO WHEN SERVICE IS NEEDED

STEP 1. Package the product and relevant accessories carefully, using ample padding materials and a sturdy mailing container to prevent damage in transit.

STEP 2. Include in package:

- a) Evidence of date and place of original purchase (for example, a copy of your sales receipt).
- b) Detailed description of your problem.
- c) When possible, a sample evidencing the problem.

STEP 3. Return item (insured) to: Vivitar

Attn: Technical Support
195 Carter Drive
Edison NJ 08817

When service is complete, the product will be returned to you shipping prepaid. In the event the product is deemed to be not faulty or the defect is a result in wear and tear, Vivitar may levy a handling charge for the return of the product. This warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may also have other rights which vary from country and State to State thereof. For more information visit our website www.vivitar.com

Technical Support

For technical support issues please visit our website at www.vivitar.com. You can find manuals, software and FAQ's at the website. Can't find what you are looking for? E-mail us at support@vivitar.com and one of our technical support team members will answer your questions or call 800-592-9541 to access our technical support information on the phone.

Introduction

Congratulations on your purchase of the Vivitar VIV-DF-183 flash unit. This electronic flash is innovatively designed for both digital cameras and film cameras, with advanced technology used to control the correct amount of light output. Please kindly take a few minutes to read this instruction manual before using.

Compatibility

The VIV-DF-183 flash comes in six different varieties, each compatible with different cameras. Check to make sure the flash that you have is compatible with your camera.

- VIV-DF-183-CAN - Compatible with Canon Digital E-TTL, E-TTL II cameras & E-TTL film cameras
- VIV-DF-183-NIK - Compatible with Nikon Digital TTL, i-TTL cameras & TTL, i-TTL film cameras
- VIV-DF-183-OLY - Compatible with Olympus Digital TTL cameras
- VIV-DF-183-PANA - Compatible with Panasonic Digital TTL cameras
- VIV-DF-183-PEN - Compatible with Pentax Digital P-TTL & film cameras
- VIV-DF-183-SON - Compatible with Sony Alpha & Konica Minolta Digital ADI, D Lenses cameras & TTL film cameras

Features

The VIV-DF-183 has the following features:

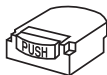
- A red focus assist beam for low light focusing
- An automatic shutter speed setting
- A flash readiness indication
- A five position tilted reflector
- Red-eye reduction (for VIV-DF-NIK, OLY, PANA and PEN units)
- Front and rear curtain synchronization
- A Power saving function

Specifications

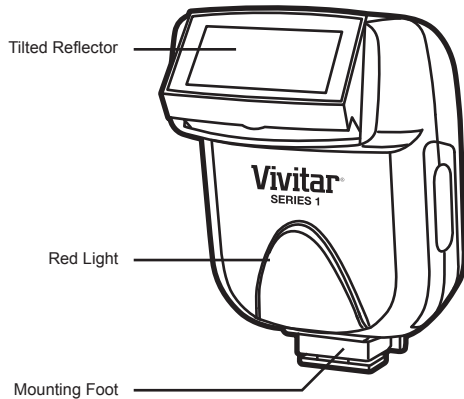
Guide Number (ISO 100)	20(m)/66(ft)
Five Position Tilted Reflector	0°/45°/60°/75°/90°
Power Source	2 x 1.5V AA size batt. (R6, LR6)
Flash Duration	1/2,000 - 1/40,000 sec.
Recycling Time	0.3 - 10 sec. with fresh batteries
Number of Flashes	100 times with fresh batteries
Dimensions	Approx. 65 - 54 - 98mm
Weight w/o batt.	Approx. 127 g

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

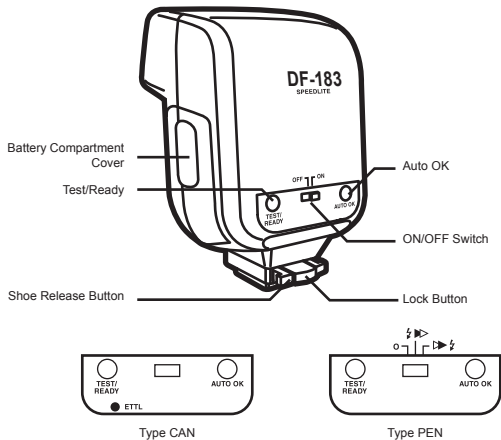
A Quick Look at Your Device



Type SON Mounting Foot



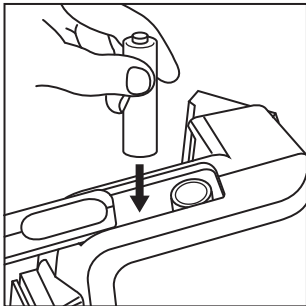
A Quick Look at Your Device (continued)



Inserting Batteries into Your Flash

- Turn the ON/OFF switch to the OFF position.
- Slide the battery compartment cover open.
- Insert 2 AA batteries as indicated by the symbols in the battery compartment.
- Close the battery compartment cover.

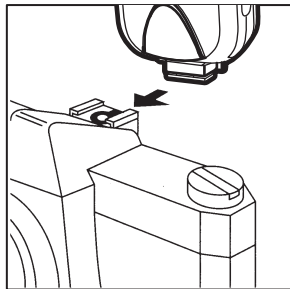
Caution: Make sure your batteries are inserted with the correct polarity (+,-). Replace each battery one at a time and make sure that the batteries you are using are of the same brand and type with the same capacity.



Mounting Your Flash to Your Camera and Removing It

Mounting Your Flash to Your Camera

- For Type CAN, NIK, OLY, PANA and PEN flashes: Release the Lock button. Insert the mounting foot of the flash unit into the camera's accessory shoe clip. Press the Lock button to fasten the flash unit to your camera.
- For Type SON flash: Insert the mounting foot of the flash unit into the camera's accessory shoe. Then the flash unit is locked in place.



Removing the Flash from Your Camera

For Type CAN, NIK, OLY, PANA & PEN flashes: Press both sides of the Shoe Release button towards the direction indicated by the arrow symbols. Then remove the flash by pulling it backwards, away from the camera.

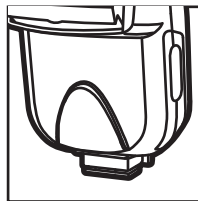
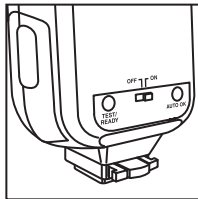
For Type SON flash: Push the Shoe Release button and pull the flash off backwards, away from the camera.

Operating Your Flash and Running a Test Flash

Slide the ON/OFF switch to the "ON" position. After a few seconds the Test/Ready lamp should illuminate, indicating that the flash is ready to use. Press the Test/Ready button to make sure that your flash works properly. If the flash discharges, it should be working properly. Wait until the Ready lamp glows again to use once more.

Adjust your camera to the appropriate setting. Most cameras should be set to the program position (see your camera's manual for details on flash synchronization.) When the flash is ready to fire, it will automatically match the camera's shutter speed. The flash readiness indicator will appear on the camera. Different camera models indicate flash readiness in different ways (see your camera's manual).

Point the digital camera at the subject and focus. Press the shutter button on the digital camera half way down to check the image. Then press the shutter button all the way down firmly. The Auto OK indicator will light when the picture is exposed correctly.



AF/TTL Operation

AF - AUTO FOCUS

If the camera is compatible with an external AF mode, when the shutter button is pressed half way down, the focus assist light is automatically activated to help the camera focus properly when the subject is in darkness.

TTL

The flash performs pre-flashes for cameras to calculate the intensity of flash light output. Therefore the flash light output is controlled automatically.

-For Nikon D40 & D40x owners: The flash can support an ISO speed up to 800 in full auto mode. It may not perform as expected if the ISO speed exceeds the supported range.

Red-Eye Reduction (Type NIK, OLY, PANA and PEN)

The red-eye reduction function reduces any red-eye problems by emitting pre-flashes before the main flash. To setup this function, please refer to your camera's instruction manual.

Front and Rear Curtain Synchronization

Some cameras offer the option of rear curtain synchronization (Rear mode) triggering the flash unit at the end of the exposure time. Rear curtain synchronization is particularly advantageous when using slow shutter speeds (slower than 1/30 sec.) or when shooting moving objects that have their own source of light. Rear curtain synchronization gives a more realistic impression of movement because the light streaks behind the light source instead of building up in front of it, as is the case when the flash is synchronized with the front shutter curtain. Depending on its operation mode, the camera uses shutter speeds slower than its sync speed.

For Type PEN flash: You could select the synchronization mode as either front curtain (⚡▶▶) or rear curtain (▶▶⚡) at the back of the flash. The flash will fire according to the mode selected to match with the camera shutter.

For Type CAN, NIK, OLY, PANA, SON flashes: The camera controls front or rear curtain synchronization, therefore no setting is required to be changed on the flash.

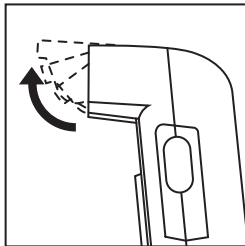
Note: The rear curtain synchronization is only possible on cameras with this feature. See your camera's instruction manual for details.

Bounce Photography

Using direct a flash to illuminate a subject will result in harsh, unnatural and unattractive shadows. This can be avoided by using bounce flash. The head of your flash can be tilted to an angle of 45°, 60°, 75°, or 90°. You can tilt the flash head to bounce the light off the ceiling or walls. While shooting indoors, this technique can help to create more natural looking pictures of people with softer shadows.

In order to have your pictures correctly exposed using bounce flash, it is recommended to follow the steps below:

- (1) Select white or reflective surfaces to bounce the light off. Otherwise your pictures will come with an unnatural color cast similar to that of the reflecting surface.
- (2) Set the camera's exposure mode to Aperture Priority Auto ("A") or Manual ("M").
- (3) Use a wider aperture than normal, as 2 or 3 stops of light can be lost when using bounce flash.



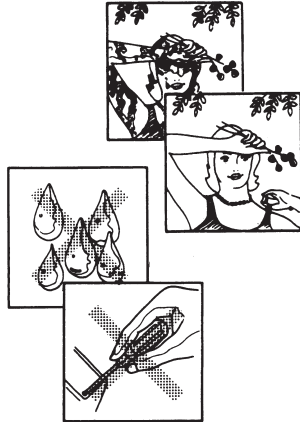
Power Saving Functions

If there is no communication between the flash and your camera for about three minutes, the flash will automatically be switched to power saving mode in order save battery power.

- The Ready light will be off while in power saving mode.
- To reactivate the flashgun, simply press your camera's shutter button or switch the main switch off and on again.
- The flashgun is not completely switched off in power saving mode. However, power consumption is drastically reduced. If you are not going to use your flashgun for a while, we recommend you to turn the flash off.

Maintenance and Tips for Taking Better Photos

- When not in use, switch the unit off. Take the batteries out when the flash is being stored or when it will be carried for a long time. Keep your flash away from dust and moisture to prolong its life.
- The flash should not be exposed to moisture or liquids.
- Batteries should not be exposed to excessive heat from sunshine, fire or the like.
- Never try to open or repair your flash since the electronic circuit inside carries a high voltage. If your flash needs repair or does not work properly, please contact a qualified repair service.



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